

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1-12 are allowed over the prior art of record.

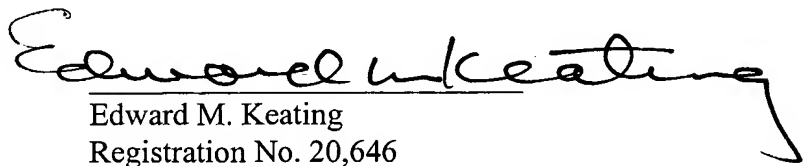
A reconsideration of the rejection of claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,767,104 to Worrell is requested. Claim 13 calls for an indicator knob 211 having a light transmitting indicator 275 extending outwardly of an outer surface 217 of the knob. It also calls for a split trim ring 245 positioned on an outer surface 217 of the knob with the ends 257 of the split trim ring terminating at the outwardly extension of the light transmitting indicator leaving gaps between the split trim ring and the outwardly extension of the light transmitting indicator and a light transmitting barrier 229, 231 and 233 provided in the gaps. One embodiment of the trim ring 245 called for in this claim is described in Section [0028] of the specification and is described as formed of metal or plated plastic.

It is not understood how the reference to Worrell teaches or suggests this invention. In the rejection, the Examiner calls element 52 of Worrell a split trim ring. However, the specification of Worrell, column 2, lines 55-61 states "As illustrated in Fig. 3, Fig. 7, and other views, the back lightable knob improved by this invention further comprises an outer cover 50, which has an outer face 52 and which is molded from a polymeric material so to cover the outer face 46 of the front wall 42 of the polymeric body 40, except that the outer cover 50 has an aperture 54, through which the indicator 20 remains exposed." Further, the specification of Worrell in column 3, lines 1-3 states "...whereas the polymeric material for the outer cover 50 is a comparatively softer material, such as synthetic rubber." Worrell describes element 52 as the outer face of an outer cover 50. This outer cover 50 is molded from a polymeric material such as a synthetic rubber. It is never described as a trim ring.

Fig. 7 of Worrell shows that the outer cover 50 engages the light pipe 30 without a gap. This showing is consistent with the statement listed above from the specification that the outer cover is molded from a polymeric material. Molded materials flow to boundary walls and usually leave no gaps. Nowhere in the specification does Worrell indicate that there is to be a gap between its outer cover 50 and the light pipe 30 so there would be no reason for Worrell to provide a light transmitting barrier as called for in claim 13 because there are no gaps to fill. In contrast, it should also be noted that claim 13 calls for the split ring to terminate at the outwardly extension of the light transmitting indicator leaving gaps between the split trim ring and the outer extension of the light transmitting indicator which is not taught or suggested by Worrell.

For the foregoing reasons, a reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claim 13 and its dependent claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Worrell.

Respectfully submitted,


Edward M. Keating
Registration No. 20,646

COOK, ALEX, McFARRON, MANZO,
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, LTD.,
200 West Adams Street
Suite 2850
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: (312) 236-8500